

wherein said antigen is the expression product of a host transformed with a vector containing a DNA fragment of plasmid λ -J19, and

wherein said DNA fragment comprises the restriction sites *HindIII* and *SacI*, and a first *BglIII* restriction site, from the 3' end to the 5' end,

said method comprising exposing a sample to be tested to said antigen, removing unbound sample, and detecting the amount of bound anti-lymphadenopathy associated virus antigen antibodies.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein said DNA fragment further comprises, after said first *BglIII* restriction site, a second *BglIII* restriction site and a *KpnI* restriction site from said 3' end to said 5' end.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein said DNA further comprises, after said *KpnI* restriction site, the restriction sites *XhoI*, *BamHI*, and *HindIII*, and a third *BglIII* restriction site from said 3' end to said 5' end.--

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request formal examination of this application in light of this preliminary amendment. The specification has been amended to correct minor grammatical errors, to recite the status of related applications, and to recite the location of the named biological depository.

Claims 1-22 have been cancelled, without prejudice, and claims 23-31 have been added to the application. Claims 21-31 are currently pending upon entry of this amendment.

Claims 23-25 are supported by the specification at, *inter alia*, page 2, lines 24-30; page 9, lines 30-34; and page 13, lines 13-19. Claims 26-28 are supported by the specification at, *inter alia*, page 2, lines 24-30; page 9, lines 30-34; and page 13, lines 13-19 and 29-32. Claims 29-31 are supported by the specification at, *inter alia*, page 9, lines 30-34; page 13, lines 13-16; and page 14, lines 1-4.

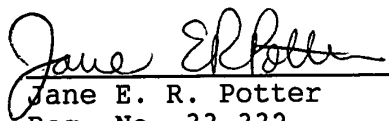
As the foregoing amendments do not introduce any new matter, it is respectfully requested that they be entered by the Examiner and be considered in the first Office Action.

It is courteously submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request formal examination of this application and allowance of the pending claims at the Examiner's convenience.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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